

REMARKS

Applicant requests consideration of the application in view of the present Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-15, 18 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22-54 are cancelled.

The specification is amended to include the section "Cross Reference to Related Application" along with the associated information indicating this is a continuation application of serial No. 09/780,744 filed February 9, 2001. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, Ref. No. AVERP2987USC.

Accordingly, an early action allowing all of the claims pending in this application is believed to be in order and is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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